



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

January 3, 2005

Ref: Use of Cross-Linked Polyethylene (PEX) Piping Materials for Potable Water Distribution Within Buildings.

Dear Applicant:

This is to inform you of a change in policy regarding the use of PEX tubing for the distribution of potable water (hot and cold water) within buildings located within the City of San Diego. This policy also applies to PEX-AL-PEX tubing that incorporates an aluminum core sandwiched between PEX layers. This policy does not apply to PEX used for closed heating systems not connected to potable water supply.

PEX was excluded from the current edition of the California Plumbing Code which adopts the 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code by transcription with State amendments. The City of San Diego has allowed the use of PEX on a case by case basis under the authority granted in Section §129.0109 of the San Diego Municipal Code that authorizes the Building Official to grant the use of Alternate Materials, Design, or Construction Methods.

In light of a recent decision by the Court of Appeal of the State of California, Second Appellate District, to overturn the prior decision of the Superior Court which required inclusion of PEX in the 2001 California Plumbing Code, the City of San Diego will halt the acceptance of applications requesting the use of PEX.

This policy will **become effective immediately for all projects** including re-piping projects.

Please feel free to contact me at (619) 446-5406, or Ali Fattah, Senior Research Engineer at (619) 446-5092, should you need to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Isam Hasenin".

Isam Hasenin, P.E., C.B.O.
Chief Building Official

cc: Gary Halbert, Director
John Hemmerling, City Attorney's Office
Isam Hasenin, Correspondence File
Joe Harris, Inspection Services MS #1102B
William Barranon, Inspection Services MS #1102B
Ali Fattah, Senior Research Engineer, MS #401